184107

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
P. O. Box 11649
Columbia, SC 29211
Attention: Charles Terreni Docket # 2005 - 385 - E

195 Luther Land Rd.
Seneca, SC 29672
January 19, 2007

Dear Mr. Terreni:
I read an article in the Greenville News recently regarding "Net Metering" of the electric power to homes, etc. I think it should be a requirement in South Carolina and available to all in our state.

With the technology and equipment available today, it should be safe and reliable. As activity increases, the cost will certainly go down. Many other states have been doing "Net Metering" for years.

It is outrageous that in a southern state like ours where tests have shown that the potential solar power available per dwelling is at least eight to 10 times the average usage in a home. Much of the daily peak usage parallels the available solar power; ie. hot Summer days with increased air conditioning load.

With "Net Metering," a large storage battery pack is not required. A small storage pack for emergency back-up or non at all would be required, reducing the system cost considerably.

Solar power "Net Metering" has been available in California for years and has helped considerably to reduce brown-outs and building some new power plants. There are now "Solar Power Shingles" for roofing material to provide esthetically incorporated solar power collection.

Before long there should be a requirement that every new house should have a proportional amount of solar power collection capability per square foot, in the building code.

Another area that needs attention is the requirement for solar heated domestic hot water. We waste so much energy in this country, it's pathetic.

We could provide so many more jobs in this country, manufacturing and installing these systems and at a net economical gain, not a cost !!! I have enclosed two pages of brief information from the reams available regarding net metering, solar electric power, and this was available several years ago.

Future recharging of hybrid automobiles will also consume much electric power. Maybe we can provide a solar power coating to the top and sides of our cars to improve efficiency there also. If we all work together, "Net Metering" can be a major contributor to a better and more efficient society. Our state needs it, our country needs it, our environment needs it !!!

Sincerely, Robert Janvrin

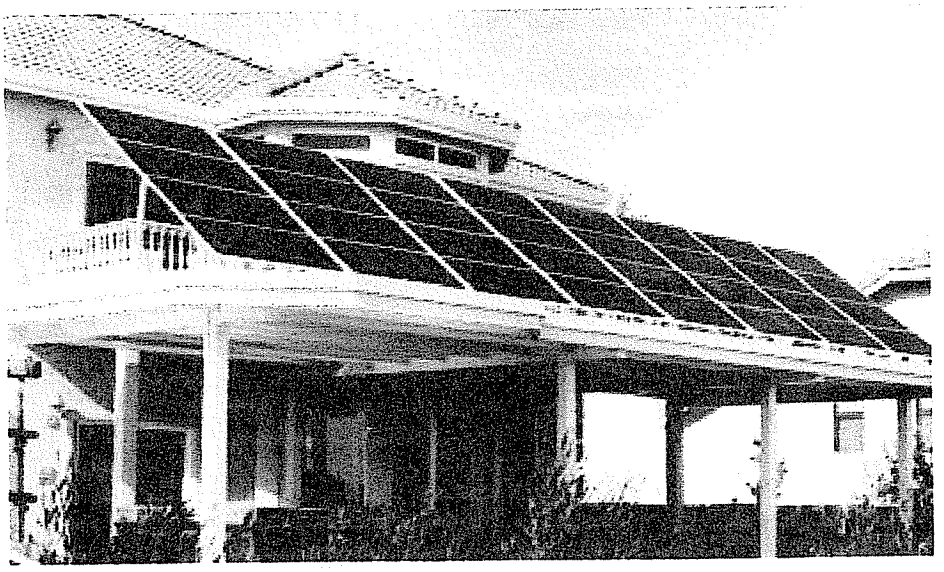
CC: Honorable Mark Sanford, Honorable Thomas Alexander, Honorable William Saudiel III

customer profile

WE BUILT A SOLAR POWER PLANT IN OUR BACKYARD!

A Homeowner's Cover Story

By Kim Nish, Fairfield, California



Solar panels doing double duty providing patio shading as well as electrical power on a solar home in Fairfield, California.

For several years now, every time the power went out my husband would threaten to get a generator. "It would be a good idea to have one," he would always tell me. "That way if the power goes out during an earthquake we wouldn't be stranded." So, when the rolling blackouts started in January, I was fully prepared for more "generator" talk. As I expected, the first thing he did was search the Internet to check out all types of generators. What I wasn't prepared for was what he came back with. "What do you think of solar power?" And that started it!

Solar Power is safe, clean, silent, renewable, and efficient. Every year, the average house on this planet will receive in solar energy eight times the power it consumes. And with the state offering 50% rebates on the hardware and installation, solar costs a lot less than you might think.

Since we have a homeowner's association, our first call was to our friendly neighborhood association board member to see if this sort of thing was even allowable here. Come to find out, due to a recent state law it was more than allowable, it is encouraged and there is little the CC&Rs can do about it. But we still have to live among our neighbors. We thought about putting the solar panels on the roof, but didn't really like the idea that they could be seen so readily and also didn't like the idea of people walking around on our tile roof at all. However, we've always thought the addition of a patio cover might be nice.

We found the name of a distributor over the Internet and contacted him for an estimate. It took him 10 days to call us back. Turns out with this particular outfit you pay for the estimate and the soonest they would get here for the estimate would be in 6 weeks! So we traveled to another Internet site, www.realgoods.com/renew, and started looking there. In conversations with one of the Real Goods technicians, Doug Livingston, we discovered we could do this ourselves with some qualified contractors. We got hold of an architect, an engineer for the patio cover, an electrician that had done some solar work way back when, and a general contractor to put it all together and got started.

Our system by night is a mild mannered patio cover, but by day is covertly a 4kW electrical generating plant. We started with 32 AstroPower 110-watt solar panels for the cover and another 12 for a ground station (for a total of 4.84kW of rated PV power), two electrical inverters (so we have a full 220V and can run our air conditioner), and 16 golf cart batteries to make us blackout proof. Since installing the system in March, we have cut the amount of electricity we have bought by about 90%.

Of course we also did all the conservation things: installed high-efficiency air conditioning, spent a small fortune on compact fluorescent bulbs, disconnected landscape lighting, etc. Best of all was switching to something called PG&E's time of use plan. This is a plan that charges and pays different rates for electricity based on the time of day and year. For example, PG&E now pays us 31.5 cents per kWh during peak summer demand hours from noon until 6pm and at any other time or at night, we buy it back from them for only 8.5 cents per kWh! It all worked so well, we installed eight more solar panels that are strictly west facing to keep production up in the late afternoon. This gave us a grand total of 5.7 kW of rated solar power. Beyond our connection fee, with net metering (PG&E buys extra electricity that we have to sell up to a limit of the dollar amount that we buy from them), **we will probably never have to pay another penny for electricity ever again!**

This summer, we've been paying PG&E's minimum $1.50/month for being connected to the utility and we've been racking up lots of credits for the winter so we won't have to pay any bills then either. This compares nicely with some of the $600 PG&E bills arriving in our neighborhood for houses smaller than ours. My husband Kevin works in the financial world and he calculated that our return on investment is only five years for our combined efficiency and solar power investment.

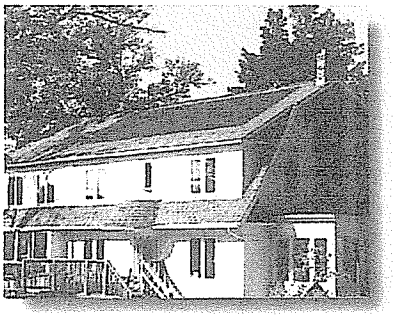
Real Goods and Doug Livingston provided excellent service throughout our project, from answering our questions to designing the system to making sure the products were on site. They even made a site visit to deliver a final critical part and take back the leftovers for a refund. Solar power is great!

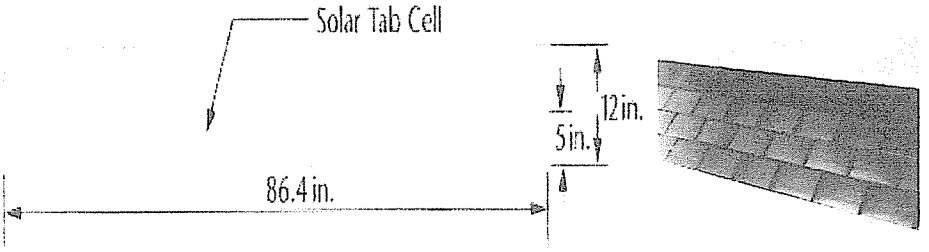
Kevin, Kim and their two children live in Fairfield, California.

PG&E now pays US 31.5 cents per kWh during peak summer demand hours from noon until 6pm and at any other time or at night, we buy it back from them for only 8.5 cents per kWh!

SOLAR ROOFING SHINGLES

Building Integrated solar photovoltaics



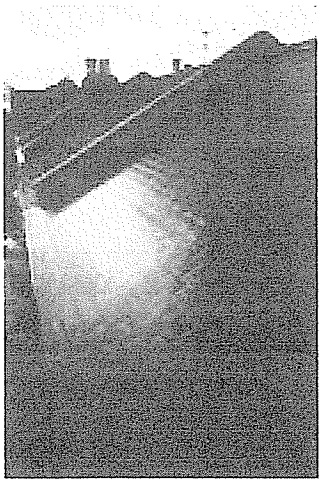


UniSolar PV Shingle (TM)

Power per shingle = 17 watts

Power per square foot = 5 watts

25 year roofing



Unbreakable. Theftproof. No mounting structure needed. The solar shingle was such a terrific idea that Popular Science magazine gave it their 1997 "Best of What's New" Grand Award, and Discover magazine gave it their "Technological Innovation Award". The problem was, you couldn't buy one for love or money. . . until now! We are pleased to unveil the long-awaited Uni-Solar PV roofing shingle, and it's everything it's cracked up to be. These ingenious shingles look and function just like conventional asphalt shingles, and even install with roofing nails. The weight is comparable to asphalt, 140 lbs. per 100 square feet, and the shingles have been independently tested for winds up to 60 mph.

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